

equipment and carrying on the proud tradition of the Rock Island Arsenal has been demonstrated in every position he has held. Under his leadership, production rates at the Arsenal have gone up, prices have been reduced, and the Arsenal was able to meet the needs of our troops more quickly. Fortunately, Mike's retirement is not the end of the family legacy on the Island his—son Ryan began as a pipe fitter at the Arsenal and currently works at Army Contracting Command-Rock Island.

On behalf of all of my constituents, I would like to thank Mike for his years of service to Rock Island Arsenal, the United States Army, and our nation. I know I join his colleagues, friends, and loved ones in wishing him well in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, due to a family medical issue, I was unable to cast the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote 913—I would have voted "yes"
 Rollcall vote 914—I would have voted "yes"
 Rollcall vote 915—I would have voted "yes"
 Rollcall vote 916—I would have voted "no"
 Rollcall vote 925—I would have voted "yes"
 Rollcall vote 926—I would have voted "yes"
 Rollcall vote 927—I would have voted "yes"
 Rollcall vote 928—I would have voted "yes"
 Rollcall vote 929—I would have voted "yes"
 Rollcall vote 930—I would have voted "yes"
 Rollcall vote 931—I would have voted "no"
 Rollcall vote 932—I would have voted "yes"
 Rollcall vote 933—I would have voted "yes"
 Rollcall vote 934—I would have voted "yes"
 Rollcall vote 935—I would have voted "yes"
 Rollcall vote 937—I would have voted "yes"
 Rollcall vote 938—I would have voted "yes"
 Rollcall vote 939—I would have voted "yes"
 Rollcall vote 940—I would have voted "yes"

COMMENDING TIME WARNER CABLE

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Time Warner Cable for its dedication to keeping citizens informed about what is going on in Washington. The better informed our citizens are, the better it is for our democracy. As our founding father Thomas Jefferson wrote in 1789, "Whenever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own government."

At a time when news coverage budgets are being cut, I applaud Time Warner cable for expanding their presence in Washington, DC with the opening of a new bureau.

I have always been a champion for transparency in government. News coverage is one of the ways that sunlight is shined into government operation. This increased presence will lead to a more informed citizenry, and I congratulate Time Warner Cable for making this investment in democracy.

HONORING BILL BUCHANAN OF KSHN IN LIBRARY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share with all of you an American success story built on hard work and an overflowing community spirit.

Bill Buchanan is one of the newest members of the Texas Radio Hall of Fame. He got there the old fashioned way—he went to work everyday to keep his community both informed and entertained and his peers honored him for it.

Let me tell you a bit about Bill. He didn't get his start in Texas radio. He started making his way selling appliances in Kentucky and working part-time as a radio sports announcer and writing copy for the Indianapolis Star.

He then packed his bags and headed south landing at KGTV in Georgetown, Texas where he started making a name for himself selling radio commercials.

In 1977, he got the news that would change his life forever. He learned that a radio station was for sale in Liberty. He bought what was then KPXE and put down roots in Liberty. In the last nearly quarter century, he's made the switch to the FM dial and kept providing Liberty County with "music mixed with things that matter."

Engineering publications and even Readers Digest took note of the station's "split-channel" innovations.

Bill remains very hands on at KSHN and many people in Liberty still talk about how his coverage of The John Hebert Distributing Fire was heard around the world and how KSHN has been in lifeline in floods and Hurricanes Rita and Ike.

Bill Buchanan and KSHN are a huge part of the community of Liberty. The Texas Radio Hall of Fame is lucky to have Bill Buchanan because he keeps local radio local by refusing to let his station be simply a jukebox.

STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN JOHN B. LARSON AND EULOGY DELIVERED BY SENATOR SHELTON WHITEHOUSE HONORING THE LIFE OF GOVERNOR BRUCE SUNDLUN

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, Bruce Sundlun was a remarkable man and an outstanding public servant. His daughter Kara and son-in-law Dennis and their children are constituents of mine. I was fortunate to be chatting with Senator SHELTON WHITEHOUSE, who was recalling his life. Senator WHITEHOUSE delivered the eulogy for Governor Sundlun, and on behalf of Congressman JIM LANGEVIN and DAVID CICILLINE, it is my honor as Democratic Caucus Chair to submit these thoughtful and poignant remarks for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

EULOGY FOR GOVERNOR BRUCE SUNDLUN AS DELIVERED BY U.S. SENATOR SHELTON WHITEHOUSE
 What a man. What a life.

Bruce Sundlun's accomplishments—as a record-breaking athlete, as a resourceful war hero, as a superb lawyer, as a successful business entrepreneur, and as political leader of our state—would each on their own be significant. You could probably write a book about each. Together, packed all into one energetic life, it makes Bruce Sundlun one of the most accomplished and remarkable men in our state's history.

And that's not even counting five marriages, four children, three unsuccessful runs for governor, two dead raccoons, and one long escape on the loose, behind enemy lines.

There's really just no way to fit it all in.

Let me step into my role as a Sundlun staffer, and ask you to think just of his brief four years as governor. Hit (on Day One of his administration) by an unprecedented bank failure affecting 300,000 Rhode Islanders, AND by the worst budget deficit in state history, AND by an implosion of the state's entire worker's compensation system, AND with the urgent need to restore ethics in government, Bruce was the man for that moment, and swung into his customary decisive action.

The budget was promptly and fairly balanced and the whole budget process improved.

Inventive solutions to repay the depositors and clean up the RISDIC mess were found and implemented, and those at fault were made to pay—over a hundred million dollars.

His worker's compensation reform moved the state from an embarrassment to a model, moving what was then the business community's worst problem completely off the problem list for now going on 20 years.

As a problem solver, he had no peer.

And that alone would be pretty extraordinary. But there was that ethics gap. So Bruce wrote Executive Order 91-One, the ethics executive order that succeeding governors renewed virtually unchanged. He reformed our Ethics Commission. He changed the way we appoint judges, to reduce the politics. He changed the way we fund elections, with a public finance plan and donor limits. Through an intense storm of legal and political opposition, he opened up the pension records; putting an end forever to backroom special pension bills. He got our State Police nationally accredited.

He even cleaned up the Capitol literally!

All that was extraordinary—but still not enough.

In the worst economic times the state had seen since the Depression, with a shrinking budget, he decided to extend universal health care to children—and started the program that became Rite Care. Against immense opposition, he built our new airport terminal. He embarked on the Westin Hotel, the Convention Center, and the Providence Place Mall. He finished the Jamestown Bridge and built the Expressway. And even that's not the end of it.

It was an amazing burst of activity. I will bet that almost every Rhode Islander, almost every day, is somehow touched by something Governor Sundlun did.

And through it all, he drove his staff crazy. He was irrepressible, impatient, imperial, unscriptable, combative, frustrating, willful, constantly threw caution to the winds, impossible to keep up with—he drove us nuts.

And we loved him.

We loved him because he was bold and brave, and was warm-hearted and trusting and generous, and because he was willing to throw caution to the winds to do what was right. We loved him because he never once had us make excuses or try to shift the blame.

That was not his style. "Never complain; never explain."

We all remember his Bruce-isms: